

REMARKS

Claims 25, 30, 35, 40, 41 and 46 were amended. Claims 23-46 are pending.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 25, 30, 35, 40, 41 and 46 were objected to due to various "informalities." Applicants have amended the claims to address the objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2001/0037325 (Biderman).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-24 are patentable over Biderman, as Biderman does not teach each and every element of the claims. In at least one embodiment of the present invention, search requests are received from a plurality of terminal devices and are then combined. Thus, Biderman fails to disclose, "combining the requests into a combined retrieval pattern including the search variables of the requests, as recited in claims 23-24.

The Examiner asserted that Biderman's alleged combination of a navigation string and keywords for search and retrieval is equivalent to the present invention's combining of the search requests from a plurality of terminal devices. See Office Action, at page 4.

Biderman indicates that a current Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address "pointed to" by a current web browser is parsed to extract URL and keyword data. See Biderman, page 5, paragraph 0054-0055. Both the URL and the key word data are transmitted from the client machine via the local web server to another server. Assuming *arguendo* that the URL data is combined with the keyword data before the transmission occurs (they could be transmitted separately), both the URL data and the keyword data are from the same client machine, not from a plurality of terminal devices as recited by the claims of the present invention. See Biderman, page 5, paragraphs 0054-0055.

Therefore, claims 23-24 are not anticipated by Biderman.

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 25-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biderman in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,513,038 (Hasegawa) and U.S. Pat. No. 6,487,641 (Cusson). Although the Examiner indicated that the above-identified claims were rejected in view of Biderman, Hasegawa, and Cusson, only Biderman and Hasegawa were applied in the rejection of independent claims 25, 30, 35, 41, and 46.

According to the Examiner, Biderman does not explicitly teach, "receiving a search

condition set that comprises a search-formula for searching the target." The Examiner alleges, however, that Hasegawa teaches receiving a search condition set that comprises a search-formula for searching a target.

The present invention includes a pattern-search system including a pattern search performing apparatus. The apparatus searches through data having a search target wherein the data of the search target includes data sets each being separated into portions respectively identified by a series of item names that apply commonly to all data sets including the data of the search target. The search-pattern according to the present invention includes item identification codes (also referred to as item tags) and search words (words to be retrieved). The search-pattern-variable table correlates all item tags and the search words stored in the search-condition buffer with relevant variables that make the item tags and search words the associated values. See Specification, page 4, line 13 - page 6, line 4.

Thus, new independent claims 25, 30, 35, 41, and 46 of the present invention recite:

a search-query-formula-variable table containing and correlating . .

a first search-query formula describing the search-pattern in a form using the *first variable* and

a *second variable* that makes the first search-query formula the *associated value* and further correlating the terminal apparatus identifier with a second search-query-formula describing the first search-query-formula-in a form using the second variable and the second variable that makes the first search-query-formula the *associated value* [emphasis added].

See, for example, claim 25.

The Examiner equates Hasegawa's "view definition syntax" with the search-query-formula of the present invention. See Office Action, at page 7. Applicants respectfully submit that the view definition syntax of Hasegawa does not include a first search-query formula describing the search-pattern in a form using the first variable and a second variable, as described in the present invention. According to Hasegawa, the view definition syntax includes a view definition syntax identifier, a directory name, a set operation name, and set operation conditions. Each item of the view definition syntax is static or constant, that is, immutable. Hasegawa clearly states that the items are described in the directory manipulating syntax, that is, the items are fixed. See Hasegawa, column 10, lines 63-67. Thus, unlike the first and

second variables in the present invention, the Hasegawa items cannot be associated with values.

In light of the foregoing, Hasegawa teaches away from the present invention in the sense of disclosing fixed values, as opposed to variables such as those in the present invention. Therefore, independent claims 25, 30, 35, 41, and 46 are patentable over the references.

As dependent claims 26-29, 31-34, 36-39, and 42-45 depend from respective independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable over the references, for at least the reasons presented above regarding the independent claims.

On page 13 of the Office Action, claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa in view of Biderman and Cusson. Applicants submit the same argument for claim 40 as was presented above for the other independent claims, as claim 40 recites similar language. Cusson is directed to a queryable cache. Applicants respectfully submit that Cusson does not teach a first search-query formula describing the search-pattern in a form using a first variable and a second variable. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Cusson is non-analogous art and is therefore inappropriately cited. Therefore, claim 40 is patentable over Hasegawa in view of Biderman and Cusson.

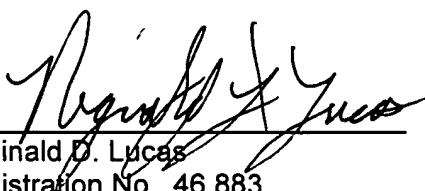
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501